

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod requests that the Executive Council appoint a Working Group with representatives from the Collegium of Officers, members of the Executive Council, Covenanted Ministry Boards, Affiliated and Associated Ministry Boards, the Council of Conference Ministers, and the Historically Underrepresented Groups, to guide work toward Unified Governance in preparation for action by the Twenty-Eighth General Synod. In consultation with the Chair of the Executive Council, each of these bodies would identify their representative so that the diversity of the church would be well represented in the Working Group.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that General Synod requests that local churches, Associations, Conferences, and Historically Underrepresented Groups engage in dialogue and discernment regarding Unified Governance for the National Setting and report back to the Working Group by Fall 2010. The Working Group, in a transparent way, will document all information received and include it in the discernment process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-Seventh General Synod affirms the principle of a Unified Governing Board as the basic governance structure of the national setting of the United Church of Christ, based on theological reflection, and practices of good governance that include strategic planning, resource development, and monitoring and oversight, incorporating the principles and concepts contained in the Fall 2008 Governance Follow-up Team II proposal, in order to carry out faithfully the mission of the church.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Synod requests that the Executive Council and the Covenanted Ministry Boards bring to the Twenty-Eighth General Synod a proposal for a Unified Governing Board with changes in the constitution and By-Laws necessary to begin implementation of a Unified Governance structure.

Mr. Morgan thanked Mr. Wilson and the members of the committee for their thoughtful consideration of the issue.

5. RESOLUTION: AN ECONOMIC JUSTICE COVENANT

Moderator Marvin Morgan called upon Mr. Seth Carey, Chair of Committee Two to present action from that committee.

Mr. Luther Holland (ILL) reminded the Moderator that a request for prayer from Ms. Rebecca West (CAC) had not been acknowledged. The Moderator invited Ms. Sharon MacArthur to pray in response to the request.

The Moderator accepted an additional request for two minutes to hear the concerns of those who had been opposed to the Single Governance Resolution.

Mr. David Gaewski (ME) respectfully requested the house revisit the action related to the Single Governance resolution for the purpose of submitting a minority resolution.

Moderator Morgan ruled the request out of order in that a minority motion has to be noticed prior to the vote on the resolution.

There followed a demonstration protesting the adoption of the resolution, "Toward Unified Governance for the National Setting of the United Church of Christ."

Mr. Carey moved the adoption of the resolution "An Economic Justice Covenant." He then spoke to the resolution.

Mr. Gaewski (ME) rose to a Point of Order and moved to appeal the ruling of the Chair as to the submission of a minority resolution with regard to the Single Governance resolution.

09-GS-37 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod votes to defeat the appeal of the ruling of the Chair as to the submission of a minority resolution with regard to the Single Governance resolution.

Mr. Morgan thanked Mr. Carey for his handling of the situation related to the events following the passage of the resolution from Committee Six (governance).

09-GS-38 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution "An Economic Justice Covenant."

AN ECONOMIC JUSTICE COVENANT

BE IT RESOLVED, that each setting of the United Church of Christ -- National, Conference, Association and Local Church -- is encouraged to become an Economic Justice setting that:

- 1) Engages in focused studies of the economic injustices that prevail in our society and our world, and the ways in which God's abundance is distributed so inequitably;
- 2) Creates a program of study that may lead that body to draft and adopt an "Economic Justice Covenant" that reflects the context, experience, study, discernment and commitment to action of that body;
- 3) Develops a range of programs and activities with the goals of inspiring members and organizing them to engage in actions that promote economic justice. Such programs encourage members to:
 - a) work as partners with people in need through service outreach ministries and community organizing;
 - b) adopt sustainable personal and family lifestyles;
 - c) help all people to become economically secure through joint endeavors with social justice organizations and other programs that empower people;
 - d) reflect justice in all settings of the United Church of Christ's economic life by offering fair wages and benefits, adopting sustainable practices with its facilities, and transacting business in a socially just manner;
 - e) advocate for the formation of public policies that move our society toward economic justice, the well being of all people, and the care of creation;
 - f) utilize avenues of networking and communication to collaborate with other United Church of Christ entities, as well as other Christian and non-Christian faith communities, to create and promote throughout our nation and the world an ethic that values economic justice for all and the sharing of resources to promote a sustainable common good.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Twenty-seventh General Synod establish a national Task Force staffed by Justice and Witness Ministries to develop an Economic Justice Covenant program that fulfills these goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Task Force provide a list of specific examples of sustainable living and programs that empower people that is accessible to all settings of the United Church of Christ.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that Justice and Witness Ministries will be responsible for developing strategies and resources to implement this resolution.

FUNDING

Funding for the implementation of this resolution will be made in accordance with the overall mandates of the affected agencies and the funds available.

IMPLEMENTATION

Justice and Witness Ministries is requested to implement this resolution.

6. RESOLUTION: A CALL TO BE GLOBAL MISSION CHURCHES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Committee Chair Seth Carey moved the adoption of the resolution “A Call to be Global Mission Churches in the United Church of Christ” and spoke to the resolution.

In a friendly amendment, Ms. Callie Rogers-Witte and Ms. Linda Jaramillo indicated that Justice & Witness Ministries needs to be included in the implementation portion of the resolution.

09-GS-39 VOTED: The Twenty-seventh General Synod adopts the resolution “A Call to be Global Mission Churches in the United Church of Christ.”

A CALL TO BE GLOBAL MISSION CHURCHES IN THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

WHEREAS, throughout the past two centuries, for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, global presence and witness have been at the core of God’s mission through the church; and

WHEREAS, since 1996 Global Ministries has been a common witness of the Division of Overseas Ministries, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and of Wider Church Ministries, United Church of Christ, an ecumenical endeavor unique among American Protestant denominations which today continues to walk with 270 global partners in some 68 countries discerning together priorities of critical presence and action with the sole purpose of timely and appropriately meeting God’s people and creation at the point of deepest need: spiritually, physically, emotionally and/or economically; and

WHEREAS, in keeping with the critical presence priority, over 150 persons in mission are currently serving as missionaries, volunteers, interns and associates in 50 countries, and missionaries sent by our global partners are welcomed to serve in the United States and Canada in fulfillment of our commitment to mutuality in mission; and

WHEREAS, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ, in a joint effort with various ecumenical initiatives in the United States and Canada and others throughout the world including the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and the World Council of Churches, continue to seek ways to respond to God’s people and creation who are in need of wholeness and